Each September, the College Board recognizes the many high school students who have distinguished themselves academically by announcing AP award recipients. There are several types of awards, granted for various levels of achievement. Although these are not monetary awards, the students receive a certificate and their achievement is acknowledged on any subsequent AP Grade Reports sent to colleges. The most often awarded are as follows:

AP Scholar = Granted to students who receive grades of 3 or higher on three or more AP Exams.

AP Scholar with Honor = Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.25 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on four or more of these exams.

AP Scholar with Distinction = Granted to students who receive an average grade of at least 3.5 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 3 or higher on five or more of these exams.

AP State Scholar = Granted to the one male and one female student in each U.S. state and the District of Columbia with grades of 3 or higher on the greatest number of AP Exams, and then the highest average grade (at least 3.5) on all AP Exams taken.

National AP Scholar = Granted to students in the United States who receive an average grade of at least 4 on all AP Exams taken, and grades of 4 or higher on eight or more of these exams.

Note: the student's average AP grade is determined based on all exams taken the current year and previous years.